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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspects live-fire drills of frontline units, local hydraulic power station

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, on May 4 directed the fire strike drill of defence units of the frontline and eastern front mounted in the East Sea of Korea.

The objective of the drill was to assess and inspect the ability to handle large-calibre long-range multiple launch rocket systems and tactical guided weapons of the frontline and eastern front defence units and the accuracy of their discharging of firing duty and the combat performance of military hardware, and, with this as an occasion, to stoke up the flames of the crack shot movement in the entire army and perfect its regular combat readiness.

At the observation post the Supreme Commander learned about the fire strike plan of the fire strike means of different calibres and checked the process of preparations for fire including the advance and deployment of the multiple launch rocket systems and guided weapons in firing areas.

He set the order and method of fire strike and gave an order to fire.

The service personnel of the Korean People's Army handle the



on the front line and western front.

At the command post the Supreme Leader learned about the fire drill plan of several long-range strike means and gave an order to start the exercise.

The training was arranged to check the rapid response capability of the defence units and conducted by combining manoeuvre and fire raid.

Expressing satisfaction with the successful drill, the Supreme Leader said that the defence units on the western front are also well prepared and especially those on the front line have wonderful capabilities to carry out fire strike

modern large-calibre long-range multiple rocket launchers and tactical guided weapons well, all are crack shots and they have built the capacity for carrying out their duty with which to promptly tackle any situation as they are well versed in modern weapon systems and have had intensive military training, he said. The fire strike drill was organized unexpectedly without prior notice, but it was successful, he noted.

Expressing great satisfaction with the rapid response capability of the defence units of the front line and eastern front that are fully ready to go into action immediately at any time and at any moment when the order is issued, he gave important instructions on how to improve and intensify the operation and combat drills of the

Korean People's Army.

All the KPA officers and men should cherish the philosophy that genuine peace and security are ensured and guaranteed only by powerful strength and work harder to strengthen the combat capability while remaining on high alert, so as to safeguard the political sovereignty and economic independence of the country and defend the gains of the revolution and security of the people from threats and invasion by any forces, he said.

Kim Phyong Hae, O Su Yong, Ri Pyong Chol, Jo Yong Won and other senior officials of the WPK Central Committee also saw the military drill.

Kim Jong Un on May 9 directed the fire strike drill of the defence units of the Korean People's Army

assignments.

In line with the requirements of the prevailing situation and the strategic intention of the Party, he emphasized, it is needed to further enhance the units' capabilities to perform combat missions, and get fully ready for battle so as to positively deal with any emergencies.

Genuine peace and security of the country are guaranteed only by the physical strength powerful enough to defend its sovereignty, he said, ordering the KPA to hold the arms of the revolution more firmly in order to safeguard the socialist country and reliably guarantee the heroic and creative struggle of the Korean people by force of arms.

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Kim Jong Un inspects hydraulic power station

FROM PAGE 1

He specified important tasks concerning the orientation in further increasing and improving the fire strike capabilities of the defence units on the front line and western front.

Kim Phyong Hae, O Su Yong, Jo Yong Won and other leading officials of the WPK Central Committee saw the military drill.

The Supreme Leader provided field guidance at Kumyagang Power Station Unit 2 on May 4.

After being briefed on the circumstances and actual conditions of construction of the power station, the Supreme Leader made the rounds of the dam, generator room and other parts of the power station to learn about construction, technical equipment and power generation.

It is admirable that Kumya County is determined to build power stations by its own efforts and put power production on a normal footing in hearty response to the Party policy on building small and medium-sized hydropower stations to meet the specific local conditions so as to ease power shortage, he said, speaking highly of the laudable

feats performed by the locals who created an eternal asset of the country by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

He said that a number of cities and counties fail to have benefits from small and medium-sized power stations due to water shortage that led to failure in ensuring full generation capacity, even though they were built at the cost of massive building materials, as the construction was not based on the accurate survey of water resources in specific areas and the scientific calculation of electricity output.

When the power station installs thousands of kW power generators as planned and generates electricity at full capacity, it will please the people as it can supply enough power to residential quarters, to say nothing of industrial establishments and cooperative farms in the county, he said, repeatedly praising the indomitable fighting spirit



displayed by the county officials and other working people who have provided an important asset for the affluent economic life of the county by dint of stubborn will.

Noting that he would feel relieved when he does something for the county population who did a great job unassumingly, he promised to send without fail the generators and transformers to be installed at the power station on his own responsibility.

He hoped that the county would properly manage and operate the

power station, a great treasure, to make the people substantially benefit from it and contribute to the development of the local industry and the improvement of the county people's livelihood and thus prosper as a beautiful county good to live in and develop with vitality.

He was accompanied by Kim Phyong Hae, O Su Yong, Jo Yong Won, Kim Yong Su, Ri Yong Sik and other officials of the Party Central Committee.

Compiled from KCNA

EDITORIAL

WPK forms harmonious whole with people

As he took a heavy responsibility as the Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea at the Seventh Party Congress on May 9 2016, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said:

"Cherishing deep in my heart the greatest trust and expectations of you who have entrusted me with the heavy responsibility of the Chairman of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea, I will fight on undauntedly, offering myself without regret in the sacred struggle to hasten the final victory of the cause of the Juche revolution pioneered in Mt Paektu; and I pledge myself to remain faithful to the revolution, holding our people in high esteem invariably and selflessly at any time, at any place and at any moment, even if my body is torn to pieces and I fall."

He developed the WPK into an invincible one which forms an integrated whole with the people by faithfully serving them. This is one of the exploits he performed by leading the Party.

Having defined the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism,

as the people-first principle, he clarified an original idea that the Party's mode of existence lies in selfless, devoted service for the people.

He made sure that the Party directed all its activities to the good of the people and solved all the problems arising in accomplishing the cause of socialism by relying on them.

It was three years ago when the northern areas of the country suffered devastating flood damage.

Saying there is no greater emergency for the Party than the people's pain and there can be no more important revolutionary task than to repair the damage caused to people by calamity, the Supreme Leader saw to it that the Party Central Committee issued an appeal and called on all the people to concentrate all energies of the country on the rehabilitation of flood-hit northern areas.

As he has never thought about the existence of the Party and the progress of socialism, apart from the destiny and life of the people, and has an ardent will to brave all storms without vacillation for the good of the people,

he guided the reconstruction on the spot and took a series of measures to stabilize the people's living.

Though many obstacles stood in the way of socialist construction and the people's livelihood due to harsh sanctions of hostile forces, he led gigantic construction projects to victory by dint of his outstanding political acumen and leadership.

Under his guidance, a lot of medical service bases and new streets and factories sprang up in recent years.

As he looked round the construction site of Ryomyong Street in one early morning of March 2017, he said that he can visualize the happy looks of the people who will live there and he feels happy with a thought that he can fulfil his promise to finish its construction by the Day of the Sun that year.

When the construction of the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory was in full swing, he frequently got familiar with its construction and as he made the rounds of the completed factory he emphasized the need to ensure the normal provision of quality products to the people so that they can enjoy substantial benefits from them.

As they held the Supreme Leader in high esteem as the WPK Chairman, the Korean people entrust their all to the WPK and faithfully support its leadership.

RESPONSE

Kim Jong Un's Russia visit hits world headlines

Foreign media gave a wide coverage to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's Russia visit.

Russia's TASS reported that Chairman Kim Jong Un of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks and discussed matters on further bolstering up bilateral cooperation and that the Korean leader, addressing the banquet given by the Russian counterpart after the talks, said that the Korean people do not forget the exploits of the sons and daughters of the Russian people, who laid down their precious lives for the cause of Korean liberation.

Referring to the meeting of the two leaders in Vladivostok, China's Xinhua said that at the one-on-one talks they informed each other of the situations in their countries, had an in-depth discussion on further promoting mutual understanding and trust, friendship and cooperation and shared the view that their meeting and talks were a good occasion of immense significance in developing bilateral ties more solidly and

soundly.

The news of Kim Jong Un's Russia visit was also covered by the mass media of different countries including China, Japan, Cuba, India, Indonesia, France, the UK, Nigeria and the US and the websites of the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association, Germany Korean culture study group, Mt Paektu Czech-DPRK Friendship Association and other solidarity organizations.

The chairman and secretary general of the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association, in their joint statement as to the historic visit, said that the measures being taken by the DPRK will hasten the reunification of the Korean peninsula and surely put an end to the sanctions and pressure of the hostile forces that stand in the way of progress and prosperity in the region, and extended firm solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle for realizing the country's reunification, a long-cherished desire of the nation, as early as possible.

Compiled from KCNA

ECONOMY

Economic sectors see steady growth

Production picks up in different economic sectors of the country.

Coal mines under the Ministry of Coal Industry increase production.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex produced thousands of tons of more coal in April to exceed its coal production target for the month.

The Inpho Youth Coal Mine secured enough coal reserve by giving priority to tunnelling and introduced a rational coal mining method to overfulfil its monthly production plan by 12 percent, while Songnam and Hoean youth coal mines extracted much coal by raising the mechanization rate in mining and transport.

The Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex increased its monthly coal production by 10 percent as against the same period of last year.

The Tukjang youth and Myonghak coal mines raised coal production per shift and the Ungok, Sudong, Kowon, Samchon and other coal mines

under the Hamnam and Chonnae area coal-mining complexes widely employed advanced blasting and efficient mining methods.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex exceeds its fertilizer production target every day.

The complex completed a waste gas recycling method based on film separation method to make a breakthrough in reenergizing production and introduced dozens of technical innovation plans including PLC automatic dry coal rod production system. It also developed a new technology with which to normalize gas generation by converting high-pressure steam into low-pressure one and installed a vacuum filter for refining solution.

A power-transmission line is now being laid at a fast pace as part of the Samjiyon County reconstruction project.

Pylon erection in dozens of kilometre-long distance was completed in a little over 20 days. The Ryanggang

and Jagang provincial power distribution stations built roads in a short time, transported pylon structures to the construction site promptly and introduced advanced working methods to finish their pylon construction plan. Those of North and South Hamgyong provinces laid the foundations of pylons by drilling into hard rocks, while those of Pyongyang, South Hwanghae Province and Kaesong City finished the excavation for foundations and erected pylon structures.

The Jagang provincial poultry management bureau is increasing meat and egg production by conducting a vigorous mass technical innovation drive.

The Hungju, Phyongwon and Jonchon chicken farms put rational technical innovation plans into practice including the automation of excrement treatment process and built a bean cake fermented feed processing base to raise the egg-laying rate while reducing the production costs. The Kanggye Duck Farm reconstructed duck houses in a short time to improve the conditions of growth and increased egg production 1.2 times by putting breeding duck farming on a scientific basis. The Manpho and Songgan chicken farms also steadily increase production by sterilizing chicken coops and vaccinating chickens regularly with various disinfectants and preventive medicines.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



KCNA

A sheet of quilt is rolled out at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill which produces a variety of bedclothes.

SPORTING APPARATUS

Factory turns into leading apparatus producer over decades

Taesongsan-brand balls bounce and roll on sports grounds at parks, factories, enterprises, cooperative farms and schools across the country.

"All our employees like Taesongsan products," said Ko Kwang Jin, vice-president of the Academy of Medical Science. "As we have conducted various sporting activities with Taesongsan balls, our academy could win men's basketball and women's volleyball and other events in the recent 24th Paektusan Prize games of civil servants."

These popular Taesongsan products are produced at the Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory in Sports Village on Chongchun Street in the capital

city.

The factory has lately marked its 60th anniversary.

According to Jong Hyok Chol, section chief at the factory, it had scanty equipment and production capacity at the time of inauguration. But now it has turned into a comprehensive sports goods producer capable of making any kind of sports equipment, further firing local people with sports zeal.

The factory's flagship is ball. In recent years, it has increased the varieties of balls according to uses and sizes, while raising the quality of all products.

The introduction of a computer-controlled laser cutter has increased the efficiency of synthetic leather cutting and the development of

a new adhesive has promoted closer integration of the tubes, reinforcing layers and synthetic leather of balls while using 30 percent less glue. A glue thread reeling process was installed to get rid of deformation and loosening of balls for football, basketball, volleyball and water polo. And a new method was employed in the production of reinforcing layers to save labour and time while increasing the bounce and lifespans of balls. Especially, a strict quality control system ensures that all products are up to international standards.

The factory also puts much effort into design.

Its footballs alone have dozens of different patterns according

PHARMACY

Streptomycin produced with domestic materials

The Sinuiju Streptomycin Factory produces streptomycin with locally-available materials.

According to deputy chief engineer Ri Chol Nam, the factory now decolorizes raffinate with potassium dichromate, potassium permanganate and bromic soda, without using imported materials, and yet ensures the normal production and safety of streptomycin.

It made sure that raw materials were undergone a bacteria fluctuation experiment before fermentation and reduced the rate of bacterial affection by 10 percent as compared to before by installing new paper air filters in all fermentation tanks.

Taking the quality of products as the top priority of concern, it installed paper air filters in seed, culture and fermentation lines to prevent the acceleration of bacterial affection and increased the output at every production line by providing safer management of technology, thereby overfulfilling the plan for powdered streptomycin production every month.

It carried out dozens of experiments on recycling ion-exchange resin based on an electrical method to confirm that it can ensure the recycling rate of resin up to 50 percent, free from inorganic acids, and established an activity examination and solid culture method for tyrosine and terramycin.

It furnished the sci-tech



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An employee monitors a production line at the Sinuiju Streptomycin Factory.

learning space with new equipment and fixtures and normalized its operation.

In order to closely combine the dissemination of science and technology with production and management activities, it provides useful data in different ways such as practical technology service and literature search.

Thus, dozens of inventions and technical innovation plans were applied throughout the factory.

"We will effect an upsurge in production under the banner of self-reliance in hearty response to the Party's militant call for smashing the sanctions racket of hostile forces by dint of self-reliance and self-sustenance," said manager Kim Chang Il.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

to lines.

Taesongsan balls find favour with local sportspeople and amateurs, as such qualitative indexes as globularity, bounce and mass are fully ensured and they come in various colours and patterns.

The factory turns out over 150 articles of sports goods in 60 kinds such as bags, outfits,

gloves and other protective devices as well as balls.

This year, it has brought out many new products including guards for Taekwon-Doists.

It is working to raise the levels of modernization and informatization of production and business activities.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory turns out various kinds of popular Taesongsan-brand balls.

BREEDING

Farmers benefit from animal husbandry

Many families at the Jongbang Cooperative Farm in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, get huge benefit from sideline animal husbandry.

As the farm is located near the animal husbandry institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science, households raise many pigs including boar and sow to be called a "village of breeding stock pigs".

The family of Hwang Il Bong keep over a dozen stock breeding pigs and a hundred odd piglets in a pigsty with dozens of compartments.

"It was some ten years ago when our family started to breed pigs. At first I didn't like to raise pigs much since I had no experience of rearing the animal. Moreover, it was also toilsome as I had to do farm work in the daytime," said Hwang's wife Kim Hyang Mi.

Her husband told her that pig raising makes it possible to produce a great deal of manure so that they can do farming properly.

So, she began to breed a sow. Pig raising went smoothly beyond her expectations. With strong conviction and desire, the couple brought two more sows.

As the number of pigs increased many problems arose.

One morning, dozens of piglets died of a disease at the same time to dispirit her, Kim Hyang Mi said.

The couple read many books related to livestock farming and visited the animal husbandry institute to acquire necessary knowledge of the cause of outbreak of swine disease and the feed.

In the course of this, they realized that superior breeds, sufficient feed, scientific approach to rearing and anti-epizootic measures are the four key factors in developing livestock farming.

They selected multiparous and fast-growing breeds whose unit feed is low. Now they produce piglets for fattening by mating Phyongnam with Jasan breeds.

For sufficient feed, they sought a unique method that suits actual conditions.

"As we have widely been known for good pig breeding, many people visit us to learn from our experience. Their primary concern is how we feed lots of pigs," said Hwang Il Bong.

According to him, their family use two kilograms

of toffee dregs which are equivalent to the cost of one kilogram of maize. The couple do not feed pigs natural toffee dregs, but ferment them before mixing evenly together with bean cake and rice bran. With this method pigs can weigh 70 to 80 kilograms after three months.

The same is the case with the breeding stock pigs. Pigs grow fast when they live on barley as it tastes sweetish and promotes digestion and absorption.

Last year alone, Hwang's family produced three tons of meat and boosted per-hectare grain yield by applying dozens of tons of well-rotted manure per hectare of paddy and dry fields.

"It sounds right to me that people usually say pig raising is the same as saving money. As we earned a large income through pig breeding, we could improve our living standards and send aid materials to the construction sites of Samjiyon County and other major projects," Kim Hyang Mi said.

By Jong Chol PT

PROFILE

Doctor in his 30s challenges protein mapping competition

A meeting took place in Mexico in December last year to announce the result of the 13th Community Wide Experiment on the Critical Assessment of Techniques for Protein Structure Prediction (CASP).

There, Han Kun Sop (pictured) was highly appreciated.

Foreign scholars posted on the internet that the research findings of the Korean researcher at the University of Sciences are very interesting, his essays showing the DPRK's level of biological development are best and the DPRK that entered the CASP for the first time emerged as winner.

Han Kun Sop in his thirties was born to a farmer's family in Kumho district of South Hamgyong Province.

"My son as a child helped me with feeding pigs, ducks and rabbits as he was very fond of animals," said Han's mother.

Therefore, he majored in biology after enrolling at the University of Sciences.

He was especially interested in genetic and cell engineering.

He set himself the goal of blazing a trail in the new study of computational biology as a postgraduate student and later



thrust himself into research into protein structure prediction that draws world attention.

A major component of all cells, protein is said to play a primary role in the manifestation of life phenomena and therefore elucidating its structure constitutes a key research project of life science.

Experts say that the experimental demonstration of the structure of one protein requires hundreds of thousands of euros and enormous labour.

So far, the structures of a very few number of proteins have been clarified experimentally and it is regarded as almost impossible to clear up the solid structures of so many proteins

by the experimental method alone.

Han racked his brains with an ambition to become world champion in the field of protein structure prediction. And his painstaking effort was worthwhile.

He succeeded in establishing a new method of predicting local and regional characters of protein structure models, which marks one of the main stages in protein structure prediction. For the discovery he was awarded a doctorate in biology.

Last year he took part in the 13th CASP which was held online. During some 90-day long contest he predicted in an original way the exactitude of 14 640 protein structure models presented by the competition organizing committee and submitted the result within the set time. He also added two essays to the collection of essays of the 13th international event.

The organizing committee that examined the results sent an email to Han to invite him to a round-table talk of five persons who were appreciated as best.

"The infinite world of biology denies me any sense of satisfaction," said the invitee.

By Pang Un Ju PT

DISABLED

Vocational education enhanced for disabled people

The DPRK is intensifying vocational education for the disabled amidst the growth of public interest in them.

At present, the vocational school of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled runs a two-year course for the persons above 17 with hearing, visual

and locomotive impairments.

Teachers communicate with students in oral and sign languages and braille.

Though special education is provided, students study free of charge like those in ordinary schools.

According to an official of the school, most of students with hearing impairment are

interested in the furniture and fixtures engineering, garment designing, hair-cutting and beauty art, those with locomotive impairment acquire computer science and electrical and electronic assembly techniques, and visually-impaired persons study massotherapy.

Relying on its carpentry, clothing and other practice rooms, the school ensures the balanced ratio of theoretical and practical lessons.

Kim Song Hui, deputy headmistress of the school, said that lots of graduates take an active part in social activities with qualifications for barber, beauty artist, carpenter, needle worker and computer operator.

"Through computer

education, I've keenly realized the importance of information technology in life and built up my capacity of seeking solutions with the help of IT. I'll display my ability as a full member of society by applying my knowledge I have learned at this school," said U Ju Song, a 19-year-old with locomotive impairment.

The school works to improve education conditions and environment in line with the requirements of the developing times and shares experience in vocational education for the disabled with foreign partners.

On May 2, it admitted eighth-term students.

By Kil Chung Il PT

INSTRUMENT

Psoriasis treatment device developed

A new type of psoriasis treatment device has been developed by researchers at the Medical Appliance Industry Management Bureau under the Ministry of Public Health.

The medical appliance is very effective in curing skin diseases with no toxic effect on skin.

It can be used for the treatment of eczema, atopic dermatitis, pimple and other skin diseases as well as psoriasis and

promotes skin care and healing of wounds.

It is now popular among users as it can be used freely in everyday life.

The device won a technology prize at the Pyongyang international scientific and technological exhibition in the sectors of healthcare and home medical appliances in 2017.

Compiled from KCNA



Vocational education is promoted for persons with disabilities.

CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

TOURISM

Nation boasts diverse eco-tourist attractions

Eco-tourism is being encouraged worldwide.

Unlike the traditional tourism, eco-tourism helps raise the awareness of environment protection among tourists and residents in relevant areas and improve the locals' livelihood and give impetus to the development of regional economy through tourist income while preserving and using wildlife resources and ecological sights as they are.

According to Hwang Chang Gon, director of the High-Tech Exchange Centre of the State Academy of Sciences, eco-tourism which appeared in the mid-1980s takes an important part in the tourist industry which emerged as a powerful service industry leading the global economy and the income from the eco-tourist industry accounts for about 20 percent of the total income of global tourism. Eco-tourism which is developing at a fast pace is estimated to reach the mainstream of worldwide tourist service trade in the near future.

With the global or regional character, eco-tourism is now conducted more briskly.

Many countries established such special organizations as the eco-tourist association and promote eco-tourism covering biosphere reserves, primeval forests and national parks.

Korea which is mountainous and bounded on three sides by the sea has favourable conditions and possibility for the development of eco-tourism. The areas of Mts Paektu, Kumgang, Myohyang, Kuwol and Chilbo, the celebrated mountains of Korea, have already been registered as the world biosphere reserves and the country has many places with abundant biodiversity including the Ogasan nature reserve and the Mundok migratory bird reserve.

Mt Paektu, which is called the ancestral mountain in Korea, has Lake Chon, a huge crater lake, a vast stretch of forests, Lake Samji, waterfalls whose water flows down from Lake Chon, alpine flower fields, unique ecosystem in the boundary line of forests and other scenic beauties that can only be seen there.

Mts Kumgang and Myohyang are widely known as the celebrated mountains of the world. Mt Myohyang in the northwestern part of the country is a rare place of

natural beauty in terms of its superb scenery and density, and richness or diversity of sightseeing contents.

The Ogasan nature reserve in the northern part of Korea covers an area of over 6 500 hectares and unfolds a spectacular natural sight as it is located in the boundary of temperate and boreal plant distribution areas. There are various living monuments and some 800 hectares of area where primeval forests are concentrated have been registered as a living monument, named the Ogasan primeval forest. Besides, over a 1 100-year-old yew, 700-odd-year-old linden, more than 400-year-old fir and nut-pine and other trees are in good preservation as living monuments.

"At present, the DPRK is pushing major construction projects including the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area on the principle of building a healthy ecosystem, and an undertaking for inscribing the Mt Paektu area as a world geological park and the Mt Kumgang area as a world heritage site," said Hwang Chang Gon.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

AFFORESTATION

From a stony hill to orchard

The foot of Turum Hill in Ungbong-ri in Sunchon, South Phyongan Province, is filled with fragrance of flowers on fruit trees.

It was once a barren, windswept land, locals say. Now thanks to employees of the Sunchon City Department Store, it has turned into a forest of fruit trees full of scents of flowers and fruits from spring to fall.

The department store is well-known for efficient commodity supply service for local people.

The store staffed mostly with women started reclaiming the stony land in 2011.

It set the goal of planting over 10 000 fruit trees in 10 hectares of land by 2017 which marked the 50th anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il's visit to it and mapped out a phased plan.

"With the thought that the more we exert ourselves, the more people will benefit, we carried out the uphill tasks as we pulled out rocks and stumps, dug pits and carried manures on our backs," said Kim Jong Ae, manageress of the store.

They managed to achieve the first-stage target in three years and harvested 700 kilograms of fruits from dwarf apple trees in the fall of 2013.

As they found pride of their labour in the happy faces of

citizens and children who were supplied with the apples, they planted more fruit trees every year to finish the plan by 2017 as scheduled. So far, they have planted more than 15 000 fruit trees in 12 hectares.

They have introduced different methods to make an effective use of land under cultivation and manure and cultivate trees in a scientific way.

They plant such crops as bean and sweet potato between fruit trees and feed their by-products to domestic animals in winter. They also trim and prune trees and thin out flowers and fruits according to their characteristics. Especially, they prevent plant diseases with

the lime-sulphur mixture they make.

They have also planted thousands of Changsong larch and other trees of good species and created a herb garden in two hectares of land. And they produce a large number of saplings and herb seedlings every year at their nursery covering an area of hundreds of square metres.

"We have exceptionally many fruit blossoms this year, which are a harbinger of a rich harvest. When our land turns into a 'gold and treasure mountain' and the citizens benefit from it, we could not wish for anything better," the manageress said.

By Ri Sang Il PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees of the Sunchon City Department Store, South Phyongan Province, carefully tend apple trees.

RETAILER

Department store attracts many after remodelling

The Daesong Department Store, which opened a month ago in the Munsu area of East Pyongyang, is crowded with customers every day.

It adds a new colour to the area which is dotted with many modern buildings that sprang up in recent years, including a water park and ophthalmic and dental hospitals.

It readily catches the eyes

of visitors for its distinctive exterior design such as a good harmony of orange and silver white colours and accordion-style architectural decoration.

Foodstuffs are mostly sold on the ground floor of the five-storey building in the supermarket style. Counters and showcases are full of foodstuffs with gorgeous trademarks, almost all of which



AN CHOL RYONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

A customer looks on at the Daesong Department Store in Pyongyang which has undergone a renovation project.

are homemade.

"We sell over 5 000 kinds of products here including processed meat and aquatic products, confectionery, drinks and rare cereals of many sorts," said Kim Yong Dan, a sales department official.

Most eye-catching are the live fish and fast food counters.

Sturgeons swimming freely in a large aquarium, shellfishes cautiously opening and closing shells in it, crisp yellowish waffles roasted in an instant and sandwiches pull the crowds.

On the first floor visitors can conveniently choose and buy furniture, ready-made clothes, household goods, shoes, bags, electric and electronic products, infants goods and other manufactured goods.

On show at the furniture exhibition from the first floor down to the basement are sets of various furniture pieces that go with different shapes of rooms and visitors can compare which one will match their rooms. And at the ready-made clothes counter saleswomen kindly help them choose what they want with an expertise of fashion designers.

The second floor is covered with shops selling world-famous goods.

Divided into sections of products with famous brand

names for men and women, jewellery, watch and sports goods, the shops sell such luxury goods as Lancy From, Satoh, Joy & Peace, S. D. Spontini, Mont Blanc, Rolex, Adidas, Nike and others.

Visitors can have a good time while relishing Korean, other Asian and European foods on the third floor with dining halls and the fourth floor with distinctively furnished individual dining rooms and computer games and billiards rooms.

Viewing spectacular sights is also a pride of the store.

It is really amazing to see the far sights of the Munsu area and near sights of the fountain and picturesque ornamental buildings in the compound from the fourth floor whose roof and side are covered with glass panels.

"Top priority in the store management is not profit, but maximum service to the people. It is our goal to make the store a favourite haunt for the people by providing them with utmost convenience, from the prices of mass consumer goods to service," said manageress Ryu Hyon Ok.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the department store on April 7 before inauguration.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

SHOW

Exhibition highlights latest industrial designs

The national industrial design exhibition in celebration of the Day of the Sun which opened early in April is going on at the National Industrial Design Exhibition Hall in Pyongyang.

On display are more than 1 130 industrial and commercial designs, environmental and building decoration designs and sign designs and their models and thousands of pieces of goods produced by industrial designers, lecturers and researchers in the fine art field and amateurs across the country in the past one year.

Many of the exhibits reflect the aspirations and aesthetic demand of the Korean people and the spirit of the times to add brilliance to their own things by dint of self-reliance and self-development.

Special draws are the designs of decorations for various service networks to be built in the Samjiyon area which is

turning into a model of modern city in the mountains, those of trademarks of different factories and that of the shape design of sightseeing tram to be used in the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area.

Each design represents the characteristic of the corresponding object intensively and its formative mood aptly. Especially in the design of the open tour tram, all elements are refreshing and give the feeling of lightness.

The designs of heavy construction machinery, vehicles and agricultural machinery, such as maize combine harvester, multifunctional seedling transplanter, large container lorry, multifunctional hydraulic front-end loader and all-purpose water lorry, spark the curiosity of viewers as they are unique in formal structure and fully satisfy the requirements of safety engineering and aesthetic

sense, while reflecting the pulse of the times that advance on the strength of self-sustenance and self-reliance.

There are also original and distinctive designs that make viewers visualize the future of more opulent life, including those of clothing, footwear, bags and multifunctional furniture and those of trademarks of foodstuffs and medicines.

"The current exhibition is conspicuous in that the goods produced by using excellent designs are sold on the spot," said Choe Song U, official of the Central Industrial Design Guidance Bureau.

There are thousands of pieces of famous products and commodities presented by over 50 units including the Pyongyang Bag Factory, Chollima Tile Factory, Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Ryugyong Kimchi Factory, Kumhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople and Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

Visitors say that the designs evoke their admiration and real products are better, they have realized afresh that the country's level of food processing is so high and the exhibition is very practical.

Technical exchanges are conducted briskly in the interview rooms.

The ongoing show marks a good occasion in raising public awareness of the importance of industrial design while showcasing the bright prospects of its development in the country.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A curator explains to visitors at the national industrial design exhibition held in celebration of the Day of the Sun

FUND

KEF helps build foundations for education

The Korea Education Fund (KEF) is enhancing its role amid the growing investment and interest of the government in education to raise the quality of education in keeping with the development of modern education.

The fund is a non-commercial and non-governmental body corporate in the DPRK working to improve the country's educational conditions and environment.

Since its inauguration in 2005, the KEF has made a tangible contribution to improving educational conditions and environment by proactively fostering collaboration with domestic supporters' organizations and overseas Koreans.

Last year alone, it rendered substantial assistance to various institutions of learning in Pyongyang and local areas for the operation of schools, improvement of qualifications of teachers, construction of schools and provision of educational equipment and materials and daily necessities.

By doing so, it contributed to rebuilding and repairing 21 rural schools which were hit by natural disasters and furnishing Phyongsong University of Coal-Mining Industry and other universities with audio-visual facilities for foreign languages education, reference books and e-books.

It is paying much heed to the assistance for orphaned children.



KEF's major activities:

- Support to school operation
- Promotion of teachers' qualification
- Funding school building
- Supply of educational equipment and daily necessities

Thanks to its sincere efforts, the driving practice room was built at Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans and the sewing practice room at Huichon Middle School for Orphans, and wind instruments were supplied to the brass band of Hwangju Middle School for Orphans and musical instruments to Sinuiju Orphanage.

This year, the KEF is channelling primary efforts into renovating the teaching contents

TAEKWON-DO

Hub promotes orthodox martial art



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The frontal view of the Taekwon-Do Holy House.

The Taekwon-Do Holy House stands imposingly in Sports Village on Chongchun Street in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

It is a museum of Taekwon-Do history as well as a hub of the spread of the Korean nation's orthodox martial art.

Built in April 2012, the structure with a total floor space of 12 000 square metres has such places as the Taekwon-Do history hall, scientific research and dissemination division, fatigue-relieving room, training ground, multipurpose hall, sci-tech learning space and international conference room.

On display in the history hall are numerous data and relics related to the birth and development of the martial art.

They show that Taekwon-Do originated from Koguryo Kingdom's *Subak*, a method of fighting using only the hands that was based on martial arts created in the period of Ancient Joseon. Later, it developed into *Thaekkyon* and *Nalpharam* through the periods of Koryo and feudal Joseon dynasty.

Having narrowly escaped obliteration during the Japanese invasion of Korea, it embarked on a new path of development after the country's liberation on August 15 1945.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il paid much attention to the development of Taekwon-Do and charted the course of its development as they saw exhibitions of players on several occasions.

Interest in the sport that is regarded as a pride of the nation grew across the country and government measures were taken to train excellent professionals and widely disseminate it.

Eye-catchers in the history hall are materials related to the International Taekwon-Do Federation and legacies of Choi Hong Hi, first president of the ITF.

Established by Choi on March 22 1966 as an international martial art body with nine member nations, the ITF has evolved into a world organization embracing over 120 member nations and more than 60 million practitioners.

Choi authored a 15-volume encyclopedia to centralize and systematize Taekwon-Do in a scientific way.

His such efforts have enabled anyone to learn its basic movements in six to twelve months and to become masters if they practise further, which is why Taekwon-Do enjoys growing popularity worldwide.

The sci-tech learning space is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of Taekwon-Do, methods of learning it and its pattern movements through the computer network.

Workshops and symposia are arranged and training is provided at the Taekwon-Do Holy House for practitioners, amateurs and other people from different countries and regions.

By Jong Sun Bok PT

and methods of schools at all levels, especially universities of education and teachers training colleges, to meet the global trend of educational development and the requirements of pedagogy, modernizing the teaching equipment and materials of schools for orphans and other schools at all levels and providing them with school things and daily necessities.

"Education is an undertaking for the country's future and, furthermore, for the bright future of humankind. To this end, our fund will work closely with

progressive organizations and personages around the world," said Ko Song Ryol, president of the KEF.

The KEF extends heartfelt thanks to New Korea Friends Humanitarian International, SPF of France, Bread for the World of Germany, Friends in Education of Canada, Heart for Korea of Sweden, International Bethel Vision, Sunyang Hana Foundation and other supporters for rendering positive support to the DPRK.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

CENTENARY



Humanitarianism goes on over century

There was a fierce battle between the allied forces of France and Italy and the Austrian army in Solferino of northern Italy in June 1859. The battle was over and more than 40 000 soldiers of both sides were killed or wounded there. The wounded were dying in pain with no medical assistance.

Jean Henri Dunant (pictured right), a 31-year-old Swiss man, was passing by on business as he witnessed the suffering of thousands of wounded men for whom medical and nursing care was lacking, and he made up his mind to help them. He did more than what he really could with the help of local inhabitants in the nearby town of Castiglione: he organized assistance for the wounded who had been brought there.

Back home in Geneva, he could not forget the terrible scene he saw that day. In 1862 he published "A Memory of Solferino", in which he described the terrible aftermath of the fighting and proposed that in every country relief societies should be formed in peacetime so that they could be recognized and ready to succour the wounded in time of war.

His proposal generated wide

interest of European countries and the first humanitarian relief organization was formed in February the following year.

It drew the attention of many countries gradually and the League of Red Cross Societies was founded at an international meeting of RC societies of 26 countries held in Geneva in 1919. Later the international league developed into the league embracing Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. It has so far conducted brisk humanitarian activities to help the wounded and prisoners of war in time of war and made emergency relief efforts in areas stricken by disasters including natural ones in peacetime, saving lots of people's lives across the world.

The Red Cross Society of North Korea was formed in October 1946, the year after Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule, and renamed the Red Cross Society of Korea after the DPRK was founded.

The RC Society of Korea has implemented a variety of humanitarian programmes in conformity with the ideal of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies since its inauguration, while promoting close contact



with RC organizations of many countries in the world.

Most successful among them are the repatriation of over 100 000 Koreans in Japan from December 1959, the delivery of a large quantity of relief supplies to south Korean flood victims including 50 000 *sok* (about 7 000 tons) of rice, 500 000 metres of cloth, 100 000 tons of cement and over 700 cardboard boxes of medicines in 1984 and the repatriation of dozens of former unconverted long-term prisoners in south Korea including Ri In Mo.

The RC Society took an active part in humanitarian assistance to disaster-stricken areas in such countries as the former Soviet Union, Indonesia and Iran. It also conducted positive activities in close collaboration with the IFRC when the northern areas of the country were hard hit by flash flood a few years ago.

With over 70-year history, the national RC Society has well over 1 million members and is carrying out a variety of projects including the production of prosthetic appliances and supply of clean water.

It now focuses on building up self-development capacity of all communities in the country.

May 5 marked the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the IFRC.

By Om Ryong PT



BY COURTESY OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF KOREA
Volunteers install water-purifying facilities for typhoon victims in Munchon, Kangwon Province, in 2018.

STATEMENTS

FM rejects attempted coup in Venezuela, warns against anti-DPRK rhetoric

"A dangerous outrage driving the Venezuelan situation to the utmost instability, the recent attempted coup is producing a negative influence on the overall situation in the region," a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK answered KCNA on May 5.

His statement came just after the anti-government forces in Venezuela attempted a coup d'état to oust the legitimately

elected president.

The Venezuelan situation is deteriorating as the days go by as the internal anti-government forces have launched a campaign against the president since last January with the backing of outside forces and the moves of foreign hostile forces are getting more undisguised to deprive Venezuela of its power of representation on the UN arena.

Timed to coincide with it, the

US which styles itself the "only superpower" has made such reckless remarks that a military operation is possible with regard to the Venezuelan situation and it will carry it out if necessary, evoking great concern of the international community.

"We denounce all the attempts and moves to interfere in the internal affairs geared to displacing the legitimately elected president of Venezuela,

COMMENT

Suspension of disarmament treaty threatens cold war

There is a growing fear that the abrogation of the Russia-US Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty (INF Treaty) could bring a new cold war to the world.

Recently, a US media organization reported that the US Defense Department is checking a plan for test-firing various types of missiles whose production was banned for decades.

Russia argues that the US has already manufactured intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and is still making them.

The Ukrainian president recently said that his country has become free from "certain duties" bound by the INF Treaty which came into force in the period of the Soviet Union and is placed under no restrictions on the range of missiles now under development.

The foreign ministerial meeting of NATO member nations in Washington in early April discussed Russia's "violation of the INF Treaty" and agreed on some measures the military bloc would take to counter Russia in the Black Sea.

Accordingly, NATO naval vessels and patrol ships under the Interior Ministry of Georgia staged a joint naval drill in the Black Sea from April 8, with an involvement of warships and airplanes of the Netherlands, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Canada, all NATO member nations.

Missile boats of the Russian Black Sea Fleet mounted a missile firing exercise targeting an imaginary enemy warship flotilla as a countermeasure.

Many people are very concerned over how the military showdown between Russia and

NATO would develop.

The NATO secretary general said the organization is making preparations for coping with the world without the INF Treaty, and it is necessary to consider what he meant in his remark.

The breakup of the treaty between Russia and the US will give free rein to many countries to competitively jump on the bandwagon of the development and production of new missiles.

The dark cloud of a new cold war which arose in Europe is spreading to the Asia-Pacific region.

A high-ranking US Defense Department official asserted that the US should build up its forces aimed at China as well as Russia. According to Reuters, he said the US should prepare a 10-year arms reinforcement plan, arguing the Russian and Chinese military capabilities will reach the peak level in 2028 and 2030 respectively. To win the fight against Russia and China the US must push ahead with appropriate programmes, he said.

It is as clear as day that China will also take immediate countermeasures against it.

Facts warn that the cold war in the 21st century will be fierce and protracted in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

All in all, the abrogation of the INF Treaty will trigger a new world arms race.

Unlike the cold war in the 20th century which was confined to the US and the former Soviet Union, the new arms race will make a grave impact on global peace and security and heavily damage the world economy by drawing many countries into it.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

as a challenge to international justice and a flagrant violation of international law," the spokesman said.

"We hope that the Venezuelan issue will be settled peacefully in line with the independent will and decision of the government and people of the country, and extend invariable support and solidarity to the Venezuelan people in their efforts to defend their sovereignty."

"Finding fault only with our regular and self-defensive military exercise as an act of provocation is an undisguised revelation of an attempt to press the DPRK to disarmament and invade it in the end," a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman told KCNA on May 8.

The recent exercise conducted by the DPRK army as part of routine military training has neither targeted anyone nor

aggravated regional situation, the spokesman said, adding every country wages military exercises for national defence and such normal drills are quite different from the war games some countries conduct against other sovereign states. In March and April alone, the US and south Korea waged Alliance 19-1 joint military exercise and the combined aerial drill in south Korea, and the DPRK-targeted war drill plans are continuously worked out even at this moment, he noted.

For unknown reasons, however, every country keeps mum about such provocative military exercise and war drill, he said, and the DPRK feels very displeased and regrettable about it and sounds a note of warning.

Compiled from KCNA